

The 2018 Black History Month Essay Contest

From Protest To Progress: Unmasking the Movement

ESSAY QUESTIONS

Elementary School and Middle School Participants: Essay should be between 350 - 500 words. Essay must include the following components: (a) How has the subject's protest created a change in our society? (b) How has the subject's protest has inspired your own life goals?

High School Participants: Essay should be between 500 - 700 words. Essay must include the following components: (a) How has the subject's protest created a change in our society? (b) What are some of the positive and negative outcome of the subject's protest? (c) How has the subject's protest inspired your own life goals?

OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES FOR PARTICIPANTS

- The contest is open to students residing or enrolled in an elementary, middle, or high school in the city of Bloomington. Home-educated students are eligible to participate.
- The essay must focus on a subject from the designated list.
- The essay must be the original work of the student.
- The essay must include a cover sheet that contains the following information: Essay title, student's full name, email address, phone number, school attending, and grade level.
- The essays will be judged on the following criteria: Creativity, Cultural Knowledge, Structure, and Clarity (spelling/grammar/punctuation).
- Essays must be submitted online through the submission page which is located at **bloomington.in.gov/bhm**, mailed to City of Bloomington Black History Month Essay Contest, Safe & Civil City Program P.O. Box 100 Bloomington, Indiana 47402 or delivered to Showers Building City Hall, Community and Family Resources Department 401 N. Morton Street Suite 260.
- The Essay Contest will be open until January 17, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. EST.
- Submissions cannot be revised or altered once submitted.

AWARDS

Awards will be given to the first, second, and third place winners in each of the categories: Elementary School (4-6), Middle School (7-8), and High School (9-12). First place winners will receive a 16GB iPad Air. Second place winners will receive \$100.00 and third place winners will receive \$75.00.

Essay Contest winners and their guests will be honored at a reception on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at Fairview Elementary, located at 500 W. 7th Street at 6 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public. First place winners will receive their awards at the reception. Second and third place winners will receive their prize through electronic fund transfer.

The Black History Month Essay committee will notify winners by phone or email no later than February 1. Essays not selected for first, second, or third prize will be informed by email on Friday, February 5, 2018.

The 2018 Black History Month Essay Contest

From Protest To Progress: Unmasking the Movement

From Protest to Progress encourages discussions about the ways that African-Americans in the past and present have unmasked the movement by utilizing speeches, writings, songs, religious beliefs, the law, politics, and much more. Participants must choose one subject below, and use the essay questions to explore how the topic addresses social and/or political injustice. In focusing on themes, we hope that students will take an interest in Black History and understand how their choices and decisions may produce actions that positively change our society.

The Black History Month Essay Committee 2018

SUBJECT LIST

| "Backlash Blues" by Nina Simone | Reverend E.D. Butler | Angela Davis |
Gil Scott-Heron | "Strange Fruit" by Billie Holiday |
Colin Kaepernick | Letter from Birmingham Jail by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
| The Last Poets | Loving v. Virginia (1967) |
Congressman John Lewis | Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee
(SNCC) |

The deadline for submission is January 17, 2018.

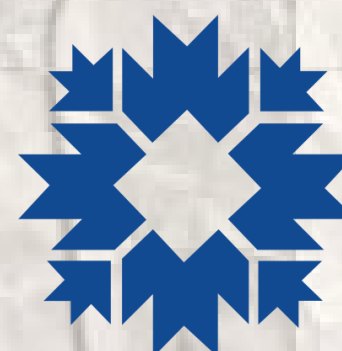


Stone City Lodge No. 54 P.H.A.J.O.I.



Southern Star No. 50 O.E.S.J.O.I.

IU Credit Union



City of Bloomington
Community and Family
Resources Department